MARVEL

35

LGY#

200

THE FINAL EPIC INSTALLMENT FROM

DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN

VENOM

PLUS! A HOST OF VENOM'S MOST HISTORIC CREATORS, INCLUDING
MARK BAGLEY, RON LIM, GERARDO SANDOVAL AND MORE!

I went looking for the truth, and Lord help me I found it. I witnessed the void that drives us to spend our lives cultivating an inner darkness.

It's blacker than ink, darker than the grave.

I was there.

I touched it.

–Eddie Brock
The Daily Globe, 1996

I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING MY ENTIRE LIFE.

WITH MY FATHER. WITH MY WIFE. MY JOB.

WITH *SPIDER-MAN.* THE OTHER HEROES OF THIS WORLD.

WITH THE DARKNESS AND THE BROKEN GLASS INSIDE MY OWN MIND.

BUT NOTHING...

NOTHING COMES CLOSE TO THE PATH THAT HAS LED ME HERE.

KRAK

I HAVE FOUGHT DRAGONS.

BLOOD-RED LEVIATHANS REBORN IN THE IMAGE OF A DARK GOD.

AND *HIM.* I HAVE FOUGHT HIM AS WELL...

I HAVE DIED. BEEN REBORN.

I HAVE SEEN THE OTHER SIDE. I HAVE SEEN MERCY.

I HAVE KNOWN FEAR LIKE NEVER BEFORE...

...AND I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO LOVE.

I HAVE FOUND PEACE...

...IN THE EYES OF MY SON.

BUT NOW...WITH THE BATTLEFIELD CLEAR...

WITH THE *KING IN BLACK* DEFEATED...

...MY FIGHT BEGINS AGAIN.

WHEN I DEFEATED KNULL, I GAINED HIS POWER.

I BECAME THE HIVE MIND ITSELF.

ABLE TO PILOT SYMBIOTES ACROSS THE GALAXY.

THEY SPEAK THROUGH ME...

...AND I THROUGH *THEM.*

IT IS... *OVERWHELMING.*

AND YET...

...ONCE UPON A TIME...

...A LIFETIME AGO...

...A MAN TOLD ME THAT MY GREATEST FEAR WAS BEING ALONE.

IN A WAY, I SUPPOSE HE WAS RIGHT.

MAYBE THAT'S THE REASON I BECAME WHAT I WAS.

WHAT I AM.

AND HERE IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, DEFENDING A PEACEFUL ALIEN RACE AGAINST A RAVENOUS HORDE OF CONQUERORS...

...ON A NAMELESS PLANET IN THE DEEPEST CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE...

...I REALIZE...

...I WILL NEVER BE ALONE AGAIN.

BECAUSE NOW...

...WE ARE...

...EVERYWHERE.

ON THE PLANET ***FALLO,*** WE HELP THE VALRAVN PRIESTS REBUILD THEIR ANCESTRAL HOME AFTER KNULL'S BLOODY MARCH ACROSS THE STARS.

IN THE DEEPEST CORNER OF SPACE, WE WORK IN CONCERT TO REPAIR A GREAT RIFT IN THE FABRIC OF THE COSMOS BEFORE IT UNLEASHES HELL INTO OUR WORLD.

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WUNDAGORE, WE RESCUE A PACK OF LOST TRAVELERS FREEZING IN THE WIND AND COLD.

IN ASGARD, WE MEET WITH THOR AND THE PARLIAMENT OF GODS. THOR THANKS ME FOR MY PART IN THE WAR WITH KNULL.

I SHAKE HIS HAND. I CAN FEEL HIS GRIP. STRONG. LIKE STONE...

...BUT I AM NOT THERE.

NO.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...

...I AM HOME.

AND HERE...

AGH...

...I AM NOT A GOD.

-GASP- UGH...

THE APARTMENT WAS A GIFT FROM TONY STARK.

HIS WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR...

...WELL, SAVING THE WORLD, I GUESS.

I HAD ***THE SPIRE*** RELOCATE ITSELF HERE WHEN DYLAN AND I FIRST MOVED IN.

IT ALLOWS ME MORE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE HIVE...AND IT ALLOWS ME TO STAY CLOSE TO DYLAN...

...EVEN WHEN I'M A GALAXY AWAY.

DAD!

THESE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE.

I HAVE TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL! COME ON!

BUT...LIKE EVERYTHING IN LIFE...THEY'VE NOT BEEN WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.

OKAY... =COUGH= I'M COMING.

BECOMING THE HIVE MIND FOR A BILLION LIFE-FORMS AROUND THE GALAXY WAS EASY FOR A BEING LIKE KNULL.

BUT, WELL...

...JUST... GIVE ME A SECOND...

...I'M JUST A MAN.

I'M NOT AS SPRY AS I USED TO BE, SON.

VENOM

DONNY CATES WITH PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON (PAGES 40-50)
WRITERS

RYAN STEGMAN, KEV WALKER, DANILO S. BEYRUTH, RON LIM,
GUIU VILANOVA, GERARDO SANDOVAL AND MARK BAGLEY
PENCILERS

JP MAYER, JAY LEISTEN, KEV WALKER, DANILO S. BEYRUTH, SCOTT HANNA,
GUIU VILANOVA, GERARDO SANDOVAL, VICTOR NAVA AND JOHN DELL
INKERS

FRANK MARTIN, CHRIS O'HALLORAN, JIM CAMPBELL, MATT MILLA,
ALEX SINCLAIR, CHRIS SOTOMAYOR AND RICHARD ISANOVE
COLOR ARTISTS

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER AND FRANK MARTIN
COVER ARTISTS

SIMONE BIANCHI; J. SCOTT CAMPBELL AND SABINE RICH; MR GARCIN;
KYLE HOTZ AND RACHELLE ROSENBERG; JOCK; NIC KLEIN;
HUMBERTO RAMOS, VICTOR OLAZABA AND EDGAR DELGADO;
RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER AND FRANK MARTIN; JEFFREY VEREGGE
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ANTHONY GAMBINO DESIGNER DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR
NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

TAPPING INTO THE HIVE WEIGHS ON ME. MY BODY IS...NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE. BUT IT'S A PRICE I PAY HAPPILY.

THAT BEING SAID...EVEN THOUGH I HAVE THE ENTIRE SYMBIOTE SPECIES AT MY FINGERTIPS...

DYLAN?

EVEN THOUGH I CAN SEE THROUGH A BILLION EYES, TOUCH A TRILLION SOULS, FIGHT INFINITE WARS...

DID YOU EAT? -SIGH- DYLAN!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT CLEANING UP AFTER YOURSELF?!

...THERE IS NO FORCE POWERFUL ENOUGH IN THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'RE GOING TO BE--

MJL

...TO CONTROL A TEENAGER.

HEY! I'M NOT DONE WITH THAT!

WOULD YOU ***BE CAREFUL?*** YOU'RE GOING TO SPILL--HEY!

LUCKILY, I HAVE HELP.

THWHP

DYLAN, YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.

PLEASE GO AND COLLECT YOUR BOOK BAG.

RIGHT. SORRY.

EDDIE... YOU MUST REST. YOU CANNOT SPEND THAT MUCH TIME CONNECTED TO THE HIVE.

I'M FINE. THERE'RE THINGS THAT NEED DOING, AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN--

...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE.

I KNOW. I KNOW. JUST...OLD HABITS...

THANK YOU, OLD FRIEND.

EDDIE. NOW, MORE THAN EVER... YOU MUST REALIZE...

MY OTHER.

OF COURSE, EDDIE. NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...

OF ALL THE SYMBIOTES IN THE GALAXY, IT IS THE ONLY ONE I CANNOT CONTROL. THE ONLY ONE I CANNOT TRACK OR SEE THROUGH...

...I'LL BE ACCOMPANYING DYLAN TO SCHOOL.

I FREED IT FROM THE HIVE WHEN I RESCUED IT FROM KNULL'S CLUTCHES.

YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS...

EDDIE, PLEASE. FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, ALLOW SOMEONE TO HELP YOU.

AS A RESULT, WELL, IN SOME WAYS, IT MAKES IT *THE MOST POWERFUL SYMBIOTE IN THE GALAXY.*

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A TEAM. ALWAYS FOUGHT AT EACH OTHER'S SIDE.

BUT NOW... THE FIGHT IS DIFFERENT. THERE ARE NO MORE DRAGONS OR DARK GODS...

BUT...WELL, I ALWAYS KNEW THAT.

...YEAH.

DYLAN.

DYLAN IS THE MISSION NOW.

OKAY, I'M READY. I MIGHT BE LATE BECAUSE I HAVE SCIENCE CL--

DETENTION. HE HAS DETENTION.

WHAT THE HELL?! SNITCH!

ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAIN?

IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP!

I MEAN, I'M **DEFENDING MYSELF.** YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S--

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS? WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK TO ME?

I-- I TRIED.

I CAME DOWN INTO YOUR... **CLUBHOUSE** DOWN THERE OR WHATEVER, BUT YOUR EYES WERE... ROLLED BACK... YOU WERE ALL... SPACED OUT...

LIKE ALWAYS.

DYLAN. SON...

I'M SORRY. I'M ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU. NO MATTER--

EDDIE!

HEY, SPIDER-MAN CALLED, LIKE, TEN TIMES.

I THINK YOU'RE LATE FOR YOUR LITTLE TEAM-UP.

WHAT? WHEN DID HE CALL? SLEEPER, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

I DON'T WORK HERE.

CLAC

THAT'S MY PHONE! PUT THAT BACK, OR--

OKAY, I'M GONNA BE LATE. BYE, DAD.

HEY, HOLD ON. WE AREN'T DONE TALKING. YOU NEED TO--

IF I'M LATE, I'LL GET IN ***MORE*** TROUBLE! I'M TRYING TO BE ON TIME, OKAY?!

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANT?!

OKAY...YEAH. JUST...BE CAREFUL, OKAY?!

I LOVE--

SLAM

--YOU.

SPIDER-MAN CALLED AGAIN. HE SAID--

I KNOW!

SO...

...I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...

WHAT DO I...CALL YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, LIKE... YOU AND MY DAD...

YOU GUYS ARE VENOM. BUT, LIKE...THAT'S YOU AND *HIM.* *TOGETHER.*

SO, LIKE... WHAT'S *YOUR* NAME?

AH. I SEE.

NO ONE HAS...EVER ASKED THAT...

I DON'T... QUITE KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THAT, REALLY.

YOU SEE, MY KIND...WE DON'T HAVE NAMES... NOT LIKE YOU...

EACH OF US COMMUNICATES WITH A HOST THROUGH A CERTAIN...EMOTIONAL VIBRATION. THIS EMOTIONAL PATTERN IS HOW WE DISTINGUISH OURSELVES IN THE COLLECTIVE HIVE.

IT WOULDN'T BE PRONOUNCEABLE BY HUMAN VOCAL CHORDS...

MINE IS... WELL, IT WAS SOMEWHAT UNIQUE. WHEN KNULL STILL CONTROLLED THE HIVE, MY PATTERN WAS CAST OUT OF THE HIVE FOR GOING AGAINST KNULL'S CONTROL.

FROM THERE I WANDERED, ALONE IN THE GALAXY, UNTIL I WAS FOUND AND--WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY. I'LL LET YOUR FATHER TELL YOU SOMEDAY...

CAN I HEAR IT?

WHAT?

YOUR NAME... YOUR...EMOTIONAL PATTERN...

CAN I...HEAR IT?

WELL... YES. OF COURSE.

HOLD ON TIGHTLY...

THAT WAS...

THANK YOU. I...I NEEDED THAT.

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME, DYLAN.

ANYTIME.

MEANWHILE...

HEY, THANKS FOR MEETING ME HERE, ED.

I, UH... SORRY FOR THE OUTFIT. THERE WAS A--

ROBBERY ON FOURTH. I KNOW.

RIGHT. YOU HAVE THAT WHOLE... OMNIPOTENT...GOD THING NOW...WHICH, I GOTTA TELL YA, ED, IS A LITTLE--

OMNIPRESENT.

WHAT?

OMNIPOTENT MEANS I KNOW EVERYTHING. I DON'T.

OMNIPRESENT MEANS I EXIST IN ALL POINTS AT THE SAME TIME. A BIT OF AN EXAGGERATION, BUT IT'S THE MORE SUITABLE TERM.

ARE...

ARE YOU OKAY?

HEH. YES, SPIDER-MAN. I'M...I'M DOING GOOD.

AH-AH! NO. CAPTAIN AMERICA DOES GOOD. YOU ARE DOING WELL!

NO. I'M DOING A LOT OF GOOD, ACTUALLY.

I DIDN'T MISSPEAK.

ONE OF US WAS A JOURNALIST, SHUTTERBUG.

NOW, WHAT'S GOING ON? NOT THAT I DON'T ENJOY OUR LITTLE SPARRING MATCHES, BUT...

WELL, YEAH...

I JUST...I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR... EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.

KNULL. THE INVASION. THE WAR...GOD, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PLANETS AND--AND CIVILIZATIONS HE KILLED TO GET HERE...?

SPIDER-MAN.

AND NOW YOU...AND DYLAN...

AND ALL OF IT. EVERY SINGLE--

SPIDER-MAN.

ALL OF IT IS MY FAULT.

ALL OF THIS.

ALL BECAUSE I BROUGHT THAT FIRST SYMBIOTE BACK TO EARTH.

BECAUSE...

BECAUSE I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.

I JUST... I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I OWE YOU.

YOU STEPPED UP WHEN I COULDN'T, AND--

WEBS, THE SYMBIOTES HAVE BEEN ON EARTH FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS. THEY FOUGHT IN VIETNAM. THEY WERE PART OF THE WEAPON PLUS PROGRAM. HELL, THE LEGEND OF BEOWULF AND THE GRENDEL IS BASED ON THEM.

THIS ISN'T ON YOU.

HOW... HOW LONG HAVE YOU--

REMEMBER WHEN THAT *DRAGON* SHOWED UP? SAME DAY AS THAT. GIVE OR TAKE.

RIGHT. AND YOU NEVER...

I JUST DID.

YOU KNOW, IF YOU EVER WANTED TO GO BACK TO BEING A SUPER VILLAIN, I'D GLADLY--

HEH. NO, YOU WOULDN'T.

TRUST ME.

OKAY. FINE. FINE. THAT'S... THAT'S...

THAT'S...A RELIEF. I GUESS. BUT STILL, YOU COULD HAVE--

--UH... EDDIE?

OH.

YOU'RE DOING THE WHOLE...GOD... THING, AREN'T YOU?

WELL, THAT'S RUDE.

I GUESS YOU WON'T MIND IF I JUST...

SLAP

AGH!

UGH.

FINE.

I'M WATCHING MY CARBS ANYWAY.

AH. SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M HAVING A MEETING WITH THE AVENGERS RIGHT NOW.

HOLD ON, WHAT? YOU'RE HERE, BUT YOU'RE ALSO...? WAIT...ARE YOU NOT... EDDIE?

I AM, AND I'M NOT.

THAT'S BANANAS. I DON'T LIKE THAT AT--

WHAT?!

WE'RE ABOUT TO BE ROBBED.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE!

ON THE FLOOR, OR I START DROPPING--

OH, COME ON...

-SIGH-

FINISH YOUR FRIES. I'LL BE RIGHT--

IT'S OKAY.

WE GOT THIS.

WHUD

AGH! WHAT THE HELL, GET IT OFF!!!

MMMFF!

I'VE ALERTED THE POLICE. THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY.

CAN YOU PAY THE TAB? I DON'T HAVE MONEY.

I DON'T EVEN HAVE POCKETS...

WELL, THAT WAS...

...NEW.

SORRY...

...I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

WHAT? THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN ALIEN LIFE-FORM BEING... CONTROLLED--

PILOTED. THE SYMBIOTES AREN'T CONTROLLED. THEY'RE ALL FREE NOW. THEY ALLOW ME ACCESS. IF THEY CHOOSE TO.

YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE THIS ***LESS*** WEIRD.

I MEAN...ED, YOU'RE...YOU'RE, LIKE, REALLY A GOD NOW.

I--I GUESS I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THAT.

OBVIOUSLY MY OFFER TO HELP STILL STANDS...BUT I GUESS...

HONESTLY... WHY WOULD YOU EVEN NEED IT? WHAT CAN I EVEN DO TO--?

SPIDER-MAN.

STOP.

I KNOW THIS IS A LOT.

BUT...I'M STILL JUST ME. STILL EDDIE.

AND I'M PROBABLY GOING TO NEED A LOT OF HELP.

MAYBE NOT HOW YOU'VE HELPED IN THE PAST...

BUT...I'LL ALWAYS NEED A FRIEND.

THAT...

THAT I CAN DO.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GET BACK HOME.

DYLAN SHOULD BE OUT OF SCHOOL SOON.

AH, YEAH. HEY, GIVE THAT LITTLE JERK A HUG FROM HIS UNCLE SPIDER-MAN, YEAH?

AND YEAH, GOOD TO SEE THERE'S STILL SOME OF THE OLD BROCK IN THERE SOME--

...WHERE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I TOLD YOU...

...I HAVE TO GET BACK HOME.

THANKS FOR LUNCH!

OKAY.

OKAY, THAT ONE WAS PRETTY COOL.

I AM STILL COMING TO TERMS WITH MY NEW POWERS.

WITH THEM, I CAN SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF EVERY SYMBIOTE THAT HAS EVER EXISTED.

IT IS... BEAUTIFUL.

MADDENING.

ALL AT ONCE, I AM ACROSS THE GALAXY.

ALL DOORS ARE OPEN TO ME. THERE IS NO PLACE I CANNOT GO.

NOWHERE I CANNOT SEE...

MY OWN PAST IS FLAYED AND LAID BARE BEFORE ME...

MY CONSCIOUSNESS LEAPS BETWEEN MOMENTS...BETWEEN... HISTORY...

BEYOND... DIMENSIONS...

MY MIND CAN SEE THESE THINGS...

AND...I BELIEVE...IN TIME...WITH PRACTICE...

I MAY BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO THEM...

I MAY VERY WELL BE ABLE TO...CHANGE THINGS.

BUT IN ALL MY TRAVELS...

...IN EVERY DARK CORNER OF THE GALAXY I HAVE SENT MY MIND'S EYE...

...THERE IS YET ONLY ONE BEING THAT HAS ESCAPED ME...

THE MAKER.

REED RICHARDS. FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE...DRIVEN INSANE...

HE BROUGHT A SYMBIOTE FROM HIS WORLD.

IT WAS DAMAGED... HE USED ME...AND MY OTHER, TO HEAL IT.

HE BELIEVED, CORRECTLY, I WOULD ADD, THAT OUR KIND WOULD ALLOW HIM TO TRAVEL BETWEEN DIMENSIONS WITHOUT FURTHER DAMAGE TO HIS PSYCHE.

HE AUGMENTED HIS SYMBIOTE WITH BIOMECHANICAL UPGRADES... HE WAS...

...UNSTOPPABLE.

HE DISAPPEARED THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL RIFT BEFORE I COULD CATCH HIM...

BACK TO WHAT HE CALLED...

..."THE ULTIMATE UNIVERSE."

WHICH IS WHY I HAVE COME TO ALL OF YOU.

I BELIEVE HE IS--

--COMING BACK. I BELIEVE HE IS IN CONTACT WITH--

--A GROUP THAT CALLS ITSELF THE COUNCIL OF REEDS. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE--

--A COUNCIL OF INTERDIMENSIONAL DUPLICATES OF HIMSELF THAT--

--ISSUED HIM A SORT OF CHALLENGE IN ORDER TO--

--JOIN THEIR RANKS. IF HE IS TO BECOME ONE OF THEM, HE MUST RESTORE--

--HIS OWN FAILED UNIVERSE. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT HE WILL HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY--

--*INVADING* OUR OWN. ESSENTIALLY REPLACING OUR UNIVERSE...WITH HIS OWN. THIS IS NOT A BATTLE I CAN FIGHT ON MY OWN. IT WILL TAKE ALL OF--

--OUR MIGHT TOGETHER TO DEFEAT--

HEY, OKAY. HOLD ON, EDDIE. THIS IS... A LOT.

I'M NOT GOING TO SAY I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, BUT...WHERE IS THIS INFORMATION COMING FROM?

I SEE THINGS YOU DO NOT.

I...GET THAT. BUT HELP ME OUT HERE. WHEN IS THIS... INVASION SUPPOSED TO--

ONE MOMENT.

UH... BUD? YOU FALL ASLEEP OR--

SORRY. I AM IN A DINER WITH SPIDER-MAN. HE'S MAKING A JOKE AND ATTEMPTING TO STEAL MY FRENCH FRIES.

SORRY. THAT WAS RUDE. WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

I GIVE UP.

WE APPRECIATE YOU BRINGING THIS TO US.

WE'LL BE LOOKING INTO THIS CLOSELY.

AND OBVIOUSLY... THE OFFER STILL STANDS, EDDIE.

YOU'D BE WELCOME TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS ANYTIME.

I'M SORRY, CAP...

I'M JUST A STAY-AT-HOME DAD THESE DAYS.

BUT...I APPRECIATE IT. MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU MAKING A CHANGE, EDDIE.

ACTUALLY...

...IF THE INVASION COMES... YOU'LL HAVE MY HELP.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME... I'M...FRACTURED, CAP.

MY MIND IS IN A MILLION PLACES AT ONCE.

I'M NO AVENGER.

YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO THIS.

WHO HAS THE SKILLS AND THE KNOW-HOW TO TRACK AND INFILTRATE THIS PLOT.

SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK WITH A TEAM.

OKAY. WELL... YOU HAVE ANYONE IN MIND?

IN FACT...

...I DO.

AND YOU ALREADY KNOW HIM.

THIS ISN'T HOW I EXPECTED TODAY TO GO.

EIGHT MINUTES AGO, I WAS ***FLASH THOMPSON.***

SOLDIER...BUSTED-UP VETERAN...SYMBIOTE HOST...DEAD MAN.

THESE DAYS, I FEEL LIKE A MIX OF ALL OF THAT.

STILL NOT SURE WHY I CAME BACK TO THE CITY. I CAN'T PUT ***MOM*** THROUGH THIS...KNOWING THE SON SHE BURIED IS WALKING AGAIN.

I'VE BEEN IN THE COSTUME-AND-MASK BIZ LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE ONES WHO COME BACK DON'T ALWAYS ***STAY*** BACK FOR LONG.

BESIDES, SINCE THE WORLD IS STILL REELING FROM A MASS GLOBAL INVASION BY AN ***ARMY OF SYMBIOTES...***

I AM A

FRIEND

MANI

...THE SAFEST PLACE FOR MOM TO BE IS WHEREVER ***I'M NOT.***

I HAVEN'T BEEN GONE THAT LONG, BUT THE CITY ALREADY FEELS SO DIFFERENT. WHOLE **BLOCKS** ARE BEING REBUILT AFTER THE FALLOUT.

WAS
YOU B
JUST
GIVEN HER THE WHOLE THING! JUST **ASK,** YOU KNOW?

TIME FOR A NEW ROOMMATE, MAYBE?

OD,
ULD!
THAT WOULD SHOW HER, RIGHT?

MAYBE THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR A ***DEAD MAN*** WITH NO PAPER TRAIL TO FIND WORK...WHILE I FIGURE THINGS OUT.

WOULD YOU LIKE THAT "ALTO" SIZE, "ELEVATO" OR "LARGO"?

UH... THE LITTLE ONE.

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THESE PLACES OFF OF TIMES SQUARE, BUT THEY HAVE DIFFERENT NAMES FOR THE SIZES AND EVEN A ***WHOLE OTHER MENU!*** ISN'T THAT CRAZY?

...OH WOW.

RIGHT?! ISN'T THAT ***SO WEIRD?***

UH-HUH.

I'D JUST LEARNED THIS MENU, AND EVERY TIME I GO INTO THE OTHER ONE I ASK FOR THE ELEVATO CARAMEL LATTE, WHICH IS WHAT I ALWAYS GET HERE,

GO AHEAD, HON, I'M JUST WAITING ON MINE.

WHAT CAN I GET YOU, SIR?

JUST A COFFEE, PLEASE.

HAHAHA! "THE LITTLE ONE," I LIKE THAT!

POOOSHH

FWUMP

EVERYBODY GET DOWN!

MY FAULT. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK HERE.

SOME OLD ENEMY HAS FOUND ME, AND NOW THAT *POOR KID IS DEAD* BECAUSE OF--

EVERYONE REMAIN CALM.

KSHHH

TARGET IS DOWN.

EVERYBODY STAY ON THE FLOOR TILL WE'VE CONFIRMED THE KILL.

"CONFIRMED THE KILL"? ARE YOU BLIND?!

YOU JUST BLEW AN INNOCENT KID'S HEAD OFF!

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, RANDO.

NO MOVEMENT.

I THINK WE'RE GOOD. I THINK IT'S--

WHAM!

WHOA!!! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

THE ONE YOU *SHOULD HAVE* KILLED.

DON'T EXPECT ANOTHER CHANCE.

BRAKAKAKAKAKAKAK-

KAKAKAKAKAKA

SERIOUSLY? WE'RE GONNA DO IT THIS WAY?

YOU GONNA TELL ME WHY YOU WERE TRYING TO *KILL ME?*

KILL YOU?! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

WHATEVER.

WE'RE **GUARDSMEN.**

WE'RE SANCTIONED TO TAKE OUT ANY SYMBIOTES OR UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS WE TRACK DOWN!

PWOOOM

BUT **YOU** WEREN'T THE HIT.

I KNOW WHOSE **SUIT** YOU'RE WEARING, SURE.

AND I'D HAPPILY HAVE TAKEN THAT SHOT EVEN IF YOU WERE HIM.

BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS **FLASH THOMPSON'S** IN THE GROUND.

IF I WASN'T THE HIT...

...WHAT'RE YOU EVEN *DOING* HERE?!

BOOM

WH-WHAT ARE YOU ***TALKING ABOUT,*** MAN?!

WE ***HIT*** OUR TARGET!

HE'S A $#&% ALIEN, LIKE YOU!

GET OFF MY PARTNER, AND BACK AWAY SLOWLY.

THESE ARE **INCENDIARY ROUNDS.** HE WON'T LAUGH **THIS** ONE OFF, I PROMISE YOU.

THE KID'S A...A *SYMBIOTE?*

THEY'RE **EVERYWHERE,** YOU IDIOT! SINCE THE INVASION, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THEY'RE ALL AROUND US!

PLEASE DON'T! W-WE HAVEN'T HURT *ANYONE!*

I HAD A **TERMINAL ILLNESS** BEFORE MY OTHER CAME! I'LL BE **DEAD IN A MONTH** WITHOUT IT!

A *MONTH?*

HEH. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT **THAT,** KID.

VUUUUUUUUM

No!

WHAM!

WHEW. MAN.

IS EVERYONE ELSE...

...OKAY?

I SEE THE TERRIFIED, HATEFUL LOOKS ON THEIR FACES, AND I KNOW THAT ***NOTHING*** IS OKAY.

NOT FOR THEM, NOT FOR ME, AND ***DEFINITELY*** NOT FOR THAT KID WHO JUST RAN OUT OF HERE. OR OTHERS LIKE HIM.

ALIEN, THEIR EYES SAY.

ALIEN.

EITHER THIS WAS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION COINCIDENCE...

...OR THERE ARE A *LOT* MORE SYMBIOTES AROUND THAN THERE USED TO BE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I UNDERSTAND: THE KING IN BLACK CHANGED *EVERYTHING.*

AND THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF SCARED PEOPLE OUT THERE RIGHT NOW.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS FOR *ME* YET...

...BUT I HAVE A FEELING I'LL FIND OUT VERY SOON.

MIDTOWN HIGH.

A FEW MONTHS AGO, I WAS FIGHTING *DRAGONS* AND THE *LORD OF THE ABYSS* ALONGSIDE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND MY DAD.

SCREAMING AND FIGHTING. COVERED IN SNOW AND BLOOD AND ASH...

GOD, I MISS THAT.

AT LEAST I KNEW WHERE I FIT IN THERE.

AT LEAST THERE...I FELT...

IMPORTANT.

LIKE I MATTERED.

LIKE I WAS STRONG.

OH, SORRY, BROCK!

AGH!

KENNY McFARLANE JR. EVERYONE CALLS HIM "KING KONG"--A NAME HE STOLE FROM HIS OLD MAN.

EVERYONE EXCEPT ME.

...DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.

HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YOU? THIS HALLWAY IS FOR SENIORS ONLY. NOT LITTLE BABIES.

WELL, YOU'D KNOW, KENNY. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN A SENIOR NOW? MUST BE A RECORD, RIGHT?

I MEAN, HEY, GET 'EM WHERE YOU CAN, I GUESS. CERTAINLY NOT GONNA HAPPEN ON THE FIELD...

...OR ANYWHERE ELSE, THE WAY I HEAR IT.

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?! YOU JUST WANT TO DIE, *HUH?!* NO ONE TALKS TO THE KONG LIKE THAT!

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME...

...I'M JUST NOT AFRAID OF YOU.

YOU MIGHT WANNA RECONSIDER THAT, YOU LITTLE--

SEE, I KNOW YOUR SECRET... KENNY.

I KNOW WHY YOU PICK ON ME.

BECAUSE ***YOU'RE*** AFRAID OF ***ME.***

YOU CAN SEE IT.

I'M WHAT YOU PRETEND TO BE.

AGH!

KRAK

HE'S BLINDED. NOSE BROKEN. BLOOD FILLING HIS MOUTH. HE CAN BARELY SCREAM.

THE RIB CRACKS LIKE A HOME RUN.

HE'LL SCREAM NOW.

BUT IT'LL HURT.

THERE YOU GO. GET ANGRY.

GET SLOPPY.

AGHHH!

OKAY. OKAY, DYLAN. DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY...

JUST...TRY TO CALM DOWN... TIME TO STOP.

HE'S HAD ENOUGH...

KRAK

AGH!

BOOM

STOP!

NO!

THAT'S ENOUGH!

AGH!

YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

RAGHHH!

DYLAN, YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

GOOD!

PLEASE...

AGHHHH!

PLEASE STOP! NO!

NO!

HEY! WHERE'D YOU GO, WEIRDO? I WAS TALKING TO YOU!

...WHAT?

MAN, WHATEVER, PSYCHO.

CRACK

DYLAN EDWARD BROCK.

YOU'VE BEEN ENROLLED HERE FOR...TWO MONTHS NOW?

PRINCIPAL BEAN

AND THIS IS...WHAT? THE FIFTH? *SIXTH* FIGHT YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?

WHAT'S GOING ON, SON?

WHY AM I EVEN HERE? KENNY STARTED IT! WHY AM I ALWAYS THE ONE WHO GETS BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING?! THIS IS SUCH @#$%%%!

HEY, HEY...LET'S CALM IT DOWN, OKAY? NO ONE IS SAYING YOU STARTED IT...

I'M JUST... WELL, A LOT OF US ARE CONCERNED. YOU SEEM TO HAVE...*SO MUCH* ANGER IN YOU, DYLAN.

IT'S MY JOB TO ASK THIS KIND OF STUFF, OKAY? I'M ON YOUR TEAM HERE...

NOW...

HOW ARE THINGS AT HOME?

GREAT.

RIGHT...

THEN I HAVE TO ASK...

WHY CAN'T YOU SEEM TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, SON?

WHY CAN'T YOU STOP FIGHTING?

I'VE...

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING MY ENTIRE LIFE...

LATER.

I SHOULD GO HOME.

I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS.

BUT I'M STILL...

I'M STILL SO ANGRY.

AT THIS POINT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO...OR WHAT I'M ANGRY AT...

MY MOTHER, FOR GIVING ME AWAY.

FOR NOT WANTING ME...

MY GRANDFATHER, FOR...HURTING ME.

OR MY DAD, FOR TAKING AWAY THE ONLY THING THAT EVER MADE ME SPECIAL.

FOR TAKING AWAY MY POWERS.*

FOR MAKING ME WEAK AND THEN DISAPPEARING INTO THE STARS OR WHEREVER HE IS THESE DAYS.

NOW...

NOW I HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM...

*BACK IN KING IN BLACK #5, VENOMANIACS! - -DEVIN

...OR WHERE I'M GOING.

HEY! WHAT'S GOING--

SOMETHING IS WRONG, DYLAN...

YANK

WHAT IS IT?

NOT SURE... I CAN FEEL IT. SOMEONE IS--

AAGHH! STOP!

HEY! STOP! COME ON, WE HAVE TO HELP!

NO, DYLAN! EDDIE SAID I MUST PROTECT YOU! WE MUST GO HOME!

YEAH, WELL...

MY DAD ALWAYS HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT INNOCENTS TOO...

DYLAN, WAIT!

LET ME GO!

HEY, SHUT UP! COME ON, I JUST WANT YOUR MONEY, OKAY? THIS AIN'T GOTTA BE--

HEY!

YEAH, YOU...

WHAT THE...

I SAID LET HER GO.

NO, YOU DIDN'T.

%&#@.

WHAM

HEY--AGH! DAMMIT!

THANKS, KID!

UM...YOU'RE WELCOME...

...CITIZEN...

HEY! YOU WANNA BE A BIG HERO, HUH?!

YOU WANNA MESS WITH JACK O' LANTERN, YOU LITTLE PUNK?!

DYLAN...

...GET BEHIND ME.

GRRRRRRR

HEY! HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!

GET IT THE HELL AWAY FROM ME!

BAGH!

HEY! HEY, I SAID GET THE HELL AWAY!

BLAM

SSSHOONK

SPUNCH

TSSSS

TSSSS

SPUK

DYLAN?!

DYLAN!

OH...OH GOD...I--

I--I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL NO KID...

I--I CAN'T...I CAN'T BREATHE...IT -:KAFF:- HURTS...

JUST--HOLD ON, DYLAN. I CAN HELP YOU--JUST... NEED TO FIND... HELP...

TELL... TELL MY DAD...

TELL-- TELL HIM I-- I TRIED--

NO. WE WILL TELL HIM...

...TOGETHER.

WAIT...

NO...

NO, NOT AGAIN. IT CAN'T BE!

NO. NO, NO...YOU'RE-- YOU'RE BROCK'S KID? I--I KNOW YOU!

NO...

YOU--YOU DON'T KNOW US AT ALL. BUT YOU WILL. THEY ALL WILL.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES...

THOOM

...WE ARE

VENOM!

NO! PLEASE NO!

NICE TO MEET YOU, JACK!

AGHH!

AGHHHHH!

THUNK

AAAAAAAAAGGGHHHHHHHHHH

KRACK

WELL...

...THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

DAD! I--I'M SORRY. THERE WAS A WOMAN IN TROUBLE AND I--I GOT HURT AND MY--I MEAN, THE SYMBIOTE SAVED ME AND I--

HEY. CALM DOWN.

IT'S OKAY.

YOU... YOU AREN'T MAD?

SON. YOU REALLY DIDN'T THINK I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

IT DOESN'T TAKE A GOD TO SEE THIS COMING...

LISTEN...I... I KNOW I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE FOR YOU, AND I'M SORRY. BUT I ALSO KNOW HOW ***ANGRY*** YOU'VE BEEN...HOW MUCH ***RAGE*** YOU HAVE INSIDE OF YOU...

HOW AIMLESS YOU FEEL NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR POWERS ANYMORE.

AND ALL I'VE EVER WANTED FOR YOU WAS TO BE SAFE. WAS TO BE HAPPY.

THE HAPPINESS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME...AND THAT'S OKAY.

BUT BELIEVE ME, SON...

...THERE IS NO SAFER PLACE IN THE GALAXY THAN WITH THAT SYMBIOTE.

...THANKS, DAD.

HEY. THANK YOU.

YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM, OKAY?

YES, EDDIE. ALWAYS. WE...WE ARE FAMILY.

ALWAYS AND FOREVER.

TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO.

YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

IT ALL...IT ALL FEELS SO BIG. LIKE...I CAN SENSE THINGS I COULDN'T, AND I--

YOU CAN SNEAK UP ON SPIDER-MAN NOW. THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN A FUN TRICK.

DAD...I DON'T...

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS...

WHOA. I...I HEARD THAT...

BOTH OF YOU. IN MY HEAD... THAT'S...

YOU KNOW...WHEN I FIRST WORE THAT SYMBIOTE, I HAD SO MUCH HATRED IN ME. SO MUCH DARKNESS.

BUT EVENTUALLY... IT TAUGHT ME THAT I COULD BE A BETTER MAN.

THAT I COULD BE SO MUCH MORE.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THAT DARKNESS.

YOU HAVE NEVER LET THE WORLD BEAT YOU DOWN. NO MATTER WHAT IT HAS THROWN AT YOU.

AND NOW... YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING I NEVER HAD...

...WHAT?

ME.

US.

AND WE'RE STRONGER--

--WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.

NOW, LET ME GET A BETTER LOOK AT THAT NEW SUIT, *HUH?*

OKAY. I MEAN, IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS, BUT--

I KINDA THINK IT'S COOL.

IT'S BIG!

I WANTED TO LOOK SCARY.

...YOU SURE ABOUT THE CHAINS?

I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT WEBS WERE MAYBE PLAYED OUT.

PLUS...ALL THE COMICS I READ GROWING UP HAD CHAINS.

I JUST... LIKE THEM.

HEY, IT'S YOUR SUIT.

SO...YOU DON'T MIND IF I...IF I USE THE NAME?

I MEAN... YOU'RE VENOM. I'M NOT--

NO, SON. YOU AREN'T VENOM.

AND NEITHER AM I.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT DO YOU--

WE ARE...

WE ARE VENOM. TOGETHER.

NOW. THERE'S BEEN AN EXPLOSION IN THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT. SIGHTINGS OF A GOBLIN...

YOU READY?

AS I'LL EVER BE, I GUESS.

OKAY, THEN, VENOM...

"...LET'S GO TO WORK."

THE END.

Eddie's Clubhouse

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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WHAT A FINALE!

Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the starships adrift in the cosmos looking for a symbiotic savior.

Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print for this, the 200th landmark issue of VENOM!

CAN YOU BELIEVE WE MADE IT?!

200 issues! TWO. HUNDRED. ISSUES! One hundred and ninety-nine Spider-Man-hating, brain-eating, host-consuming issues of VENOM goodness have led to THIS, the comics mag you're holding in your hands!

But this issue isn't just a monumental moment for the Wicked Web-Slinger! It's also a special occasion for the whole team of incredibly talented creators who have brought the last four years of VENOM to life!

Since the very beginning of Donny, Ryan, JP, Frank and Clayton's run on the series, we knew that this milestone issue was on the horizon, and it was nearly two years ago now when Donny, Ryan, Danny, Nick Lowe, C.B. Cebulski and I all sat down to break down the story of KING IN BLACK! It was then that it really dawned on us all: not only would KING IN BLACK #5 mark the end of that titanic event and Knull's (nearly year-long) campaign across the galaxy – but this issue, the comic that would immediately follow KING IN BLACK #5, was also going to be the bicentennial issue of VENOM and, as a celebration of everything Venom is and has been (and perhaps COULD be!), would mark a perfect place for Donny, Ryan, JP and Frank to bring their symbiotic story to a close.

AND SO HERE WE ARE! After a 74-page epic, full of brave choices, incredible twists and some of the best VENOM artwork ever committed to paper!

But enough gabbing from me! I'm going to turn this column over to Donny and Ryan. After all, they're the ones y'all want to hear from in the first place!

Dear Mr. Cates and Mr. Stegman,

I've been a huge comic book fan since I was, like, 5. Reading comics brought me great inspiration and joy during my young childhood. As I got older, as my time become more occupied with work and school and my interest in comics diminished; one day I just stopped reading.

It was during college when things changed. In my junior year, I was doing fairly well in school. However, my relationships weren't doing so well, I was not in a good place spiritually or socially and I felt my past catching up to me. I made mistakes in middle and high school (even college) and was being reminded of those mistakes every day because those were some of the lowest points in my life.

One day I was walking through the mall when I decided to head into the Newbury Comics shop that had just opened. It was there that I saw the new VENOM #1 by you guys, JP, Frank and Clayton.

Venom had been one of my favorites (I even drew a Venom logo on one of my compression shirts for one of my games), and the artwork of the comic was legit, so I decided to give it a try. Ever since, I haven't missed an issue of VENOM, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and KING IN BLACK.

I cannot tell you the amount of good your VENOM run has done for my life. Seeing how I can relate to someone like Eddie Brock, a guy who was in a downward slump, made bad choices, paid for them, and decided to turn his life around for the better despite what people see him as, started to do good, help people, overcame obstacles, never gave up and reaped the rewards. I am still on that path and will continue to ride it wherever it takes me, that's how significant your work and this comic have been for me. It showed me that no matter how dark your past is, no matter how twisted and brutal it was, it does not define you nor the person you want to become.

It sucks that after issue #200 you guys are leaving. I pray you both reconsider and continue (Though…it would be awesome if Daniel Warren Johnson takes the reins going forward, but that's just my personal opinion!). But after your conclusion (and I can't speak for all comic book fans), it will be safe to say you built one of the greatest and most impactful comic runs in history and cemented yourselves as one of the best teams ever, having crafted two of the greatest events of all time in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and KING IN BLACK.

It's incredible to see where the characters of Venom and Eddie Brock stand currently--along with his son Dylan (who inspired me greatly to start a family and become a father); from where he started to now as the King in Black. I appreciate you all for all that you do and how you tell stories that impact and inspire people of all walks of life. I can't wait to see what you both do next, for you have in me a lifelong fan, as you do in many others!

Sincerely,
Bekeri B.

Thank you for the kind words, Bekeri! I think Donny and I both can say that we relate a lot to Eddie in this story for various reasons and I think that's part of what resonates with fans.

Absolutely! Ryan said it all. Eddie has been such an aspirational and inspirational character for me personally. Throughout the many years we've been on the book, I've undergone many very challenging moments in my life, and just as he was there for me when I was young, Eddie Brock has been by my side through all of it. I truly cannot thank you, and all the other fans out there for connecting with this story as much as we all have!

Hey, VENOM team,

Me and my son are both reading KING IN BLACK and all the tie-ins so far, and I wanted to say it's amazing! Although I have one question: Why is the end the end? Why will #200 be the end of the series? I must ask: will VENOM ever make a comeback?! Will there be any more VENOM issues after #35?!

Thanks,
Shawn B.

Donny and I talked about this a lot and we wanted to leave fans wanting more rather than overstay our welcome. The Donny-Ryan combo will roll on, just in different books. It's time to spread our (venom) wings and try something new!

Yes, and while this is the end of Ryan and my tenure on the book, rest assured Venom isn't going ANYWHERE!!! There are many, many stories left to tell, and I promise, he and Dylan are in very capable hands moving forward! Stay tuned, True Believer!

Dear VENOM and KING IN BLACK teams,

Hi! Me and my brother just finished reading VENOM #31 on Marvel Unlimited and WOW! I have been reading these comics with my brother since November, and we counted the days until KING IN BLACK #1 came out.

We also had one question: will there be anymore Venom comics after #35? Thank you for taking the time to read this!

From Reid and Graham S.

As a father of two sons it warms my heart to hear that you and your brother share this together! And yes, I'm sure Devin has made it clear at this point, but Venom will never go away.

Now, more than ever...VENOM IS FOREVER!!!

Dear VENOM crew,

I been a fan of Marvel all my life but your comic has been the one to inspire me and get me into reading more Marvel Comics and even drawing some of my own! Venom has been always in my top three favorite Marvel characters, but this comic put him on top.

But I do have a serious question for you guys: If I wanted to pursue a career in drawing comics what kind of school should I attend or degree will I have to get?

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sierra R.

Thank you, Sierra! I'll let Ryan field this one! Ryan?

Sierra, thank you! As for school, there are several that teach comics. There's the Kubert School, Savannah College of Art and Design and many more. I personally did not go to school for it, but sometimes I regret that. Even though things worked out, I think that type of learning environment would help anyone trying to do this job. Good luck!

Hey Venom Team,

I just wanted to say how much I am loving the series so far and can't believe we're already almost finished with it. I love The Storyline Just as much as I love the artwork and I cant wait to see what's next for the Symbiote we all know and love!

Sincerely,
Isiah Burton

Thank you Isiah! Glad you liked the artwork! Keep your eyes open for what I'll be doing next, I think you'll like it!

Yup, Ryan and I are aren't going anywhere. Me and that dude are practically married, so stay tuned for news of where we're going to land next!

Dear KING IN BLACK team,

HOLLLLY CRAP!!!!!! Issue 5 of KING IN BLACK! My mind is still wrapping around what just happened! Mjolnir and the Silver Surfer Board turned into a badass axe! Knull getting obliterated like that! Venom ruling the Klyntar! I have no idea what's next in Venom and Eddie's life but I'm going to stick with it and just love it!!! What's going to happen next?!

Your big VENOM fan,
Marc

Haha, as a fan myself I was even blown away by some of the stuff I was getting to draw for this issue. Glad that came through! As for what's next, well...Devin?

As you can see from this very issue, things in the Brock family are JUST starting to heat up! Stay tuned...the next creative team has some INSANE ideas. I think you're all going to be very, VERY happy!!!

Hello,

Cates and Stegman are great.

The whole VENOM series and KING IN BLACK have been amazing, and the storyline is awesome. Can't say enough about it. Keep them on the VENOM story.

Thanks for the book and
thanks for the fun,
Olly O.

Olly, thank you for the kind words! We would have loved to stay but we had said everything we wanted to with the character. I know who the next creative team is though and they won't miss a beat!

Yeah, Olly, thank you so much. We love our fans and it's because of YOU that we got to pull this insane thing off. And like Ryan said...you ain't seen nothing yet!

Hey VENOM Team,

200 issues. Wow. Has it really been that much?! For the past couple of years, Donny and Ryan have really expanded our minds into the Venomverse and have really made this character someone who is no longer known as a Spider-Man villain, but as a hero.

I just wanted to say I love everything about the latest issues and can't wait to see what's coming next!

Sincerely,
Isiah B.

I think this is Isiah Burton AGAIN in the letter column! Thank you again, Isiah. I can't wait either!

As a lifelong Venomaniac this has truly been the honor of a lifetime to be able to helm this historic 200th issue. I was there as a fan over 30 years ago when he came to life, and now here we are, closing out his biggest issue to date. And I got to do it with some of my best friends in the world. Thank you. Thank you all so much.

We're stronger when we're together.

And we...

All of us...

We are Venom.

Donny and Ryan have certainly left a lasting mark on the symbiote mythos, but they didn't do it alone! They were joined by inker JP Mayer and color artist Frank Martin, who both wanted to share some thoughts with readers who stuck with the whole team from the beginning as well!

Speaking about the most amazing experience, with professionals that became partners and friends and a project that inspired the best out of everyone involved is not easy... The trust given to me made me motivated and challenged me to be the best I could... Every issue, every work has been even greater than the last! I saw our work grow as well as each and every one of us. The cycle has come to an end, leaving a great footprint. VENOM, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, KING IN BLACK. All the crew and specially YOU, fans, apportioned me so much joy and accomplishment that I can't even put in to words. This was a story that became history!

Thank you, God! Thank you, Ryan! Thank you so much to everyone!

JP Mayer

So, here we are at the end of our journey with VENOM. And with that in mind, I can't avoid the urge to ask myself what I have learned from this experience. To get to this truth, I need to reassess the person that I was at the very start and, ironically, that person was cocky, closed and negative. When first asked if I'd like to participate on this project my answer was "there is no way." Yet, here I am almost four years later feeling content and even proud. With the great techniques, relationships and everything that come with them aside, the truth that I learned from our run is that I need to stay open to new ideas as much as I can and if my work somehow helped you get to the same truth, or any other, I am glad. Thank you!

Frank Martin

And thank YOU, JP and Frank! And Clayton, too!

ALL RIGHT! Enough gushing. We've got a printer deadline to hit!

Stay sharp,
Devin
5.3.21

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VENOM 200 COVER GALLERY

FACE FRONT, VENOMANIACS! FOR THIS MOMENTOUS BICENTENNIAL MILESTONE, WE ENLISTED THE AID OF THAT MOST-STORIED MARVEL BULLPEN TO COMPILE A COMPLETE COLLETION OF THE COVERS OF WICKED WEBSLINGER'S SELF-TITLED STORIES! SO FEAST YOUR EYES ON THESE 200 GEMS - AND BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE NEXT 200!

- EDITOR

VENOM
ALONG CAME A SPIDER...
VENOM
ALONG CAME A SPIDER...
VENOM
VENOM
THE HUNGER
CITY OF DREAMS
VENOM
THE HUNGER
IN THE WHITE ROOM
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FACE IT, THIS TIME HAS IT ALL
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TAKE THE "A" TRAIN...
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WOLVERINE
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TOOTH AND CLAW
SPIDER-MAN
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TOOTH AND CLAW
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LICENSE TO KILL
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LET HIM GO, OR...
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VENOM: CIRCLE OF FOUR

VENOM: CIRCLE OF FOUR

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VENOM: SAVAGE SIX PART 2

VENOM: SAVAGE SIX PART 3

VENOM: SAVAGE SIX PART 4

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VENOM: MONSTERS OF EVIL PART 1

VENOM: MONSTERS OF EVIL PART 2

VENOM: MINIMUM CARNAGE PART 3

VENOM: MINIMUM CARNAGE PART 5

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VENOM CIRCLE OF FOUR

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VENOM CIRCLE OF FOUR GOES TO HELL

VENOM SPACE KNIGHT #1

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VENOM SPACE KNIGHT

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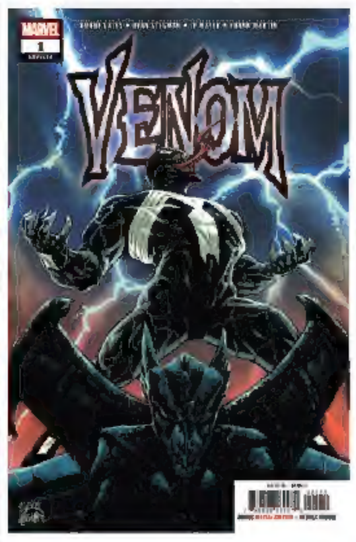
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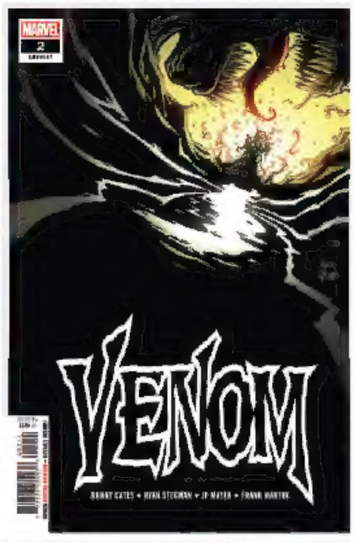
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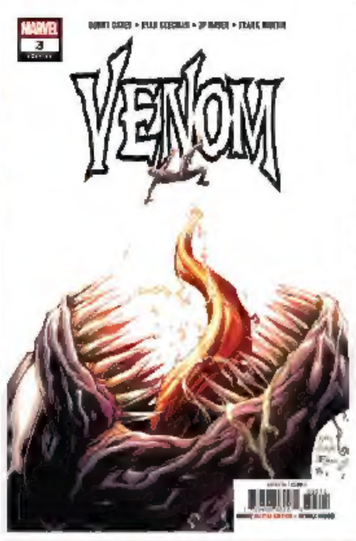
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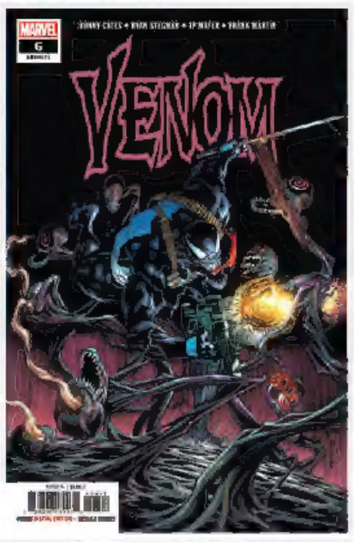
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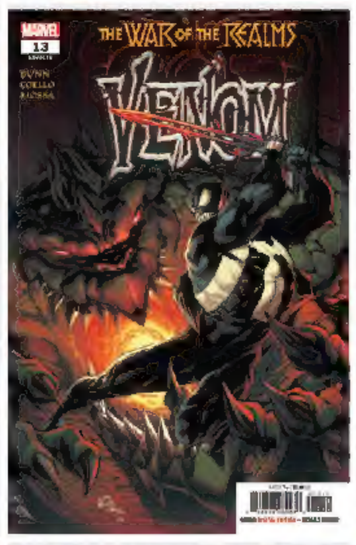
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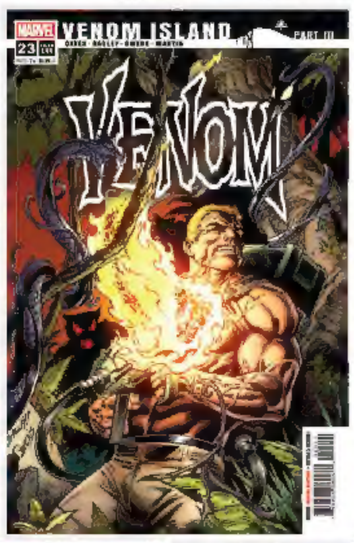
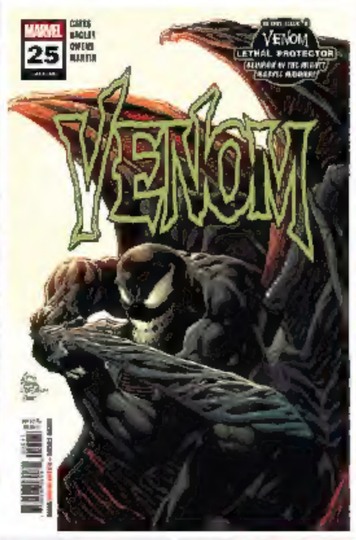
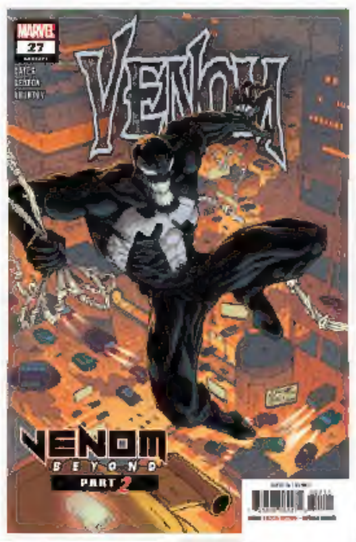
VENOM


MARVEL
VENOM ISLAND
23
VENOM

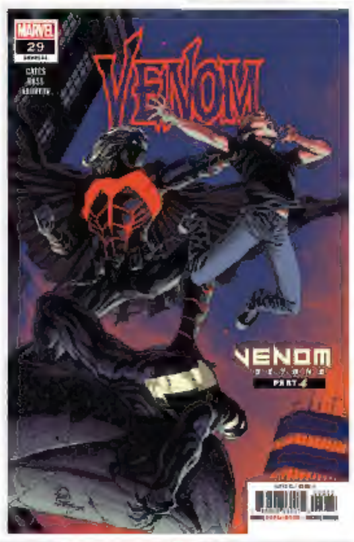
MARVEL
VENOM ISLAND
24
VENOM


MARVEL
25
VENOM

MARVEL
VENOM BEYOND
STARTS HERE!
VENOM


MARVEL
27
VENOM
VENOM BEYOND
PART 2

MARVEL
28
VENOM
VENOM BEYOND
PART 3


MARVEL
29
VENOM
VENOM BEYOND
PART 4

MARVEL
30
VENOM
VENOM
PART 5

MARVEL
VENOM
31

MARVEL
VENOM
CATES
COELLO
AGUIRRE
32

MARVEL
33
VENOM
CATES
COELLO
AGUIRRE

VENOM
CATES
COELLO
AGUIRRE
MARVEL
34

MARVEL
35
200
VENOM

NEXT

MINI MARVELS

by Chris Giarrusso

BROCK, YOU'RE DOING *GREAT* WITH THAT ALIEN SYMBIOTE COSTUME!

SYMBIOTE REUNION

I COULDN'T *HANDLE* WEARING IT. IT WAS TURNING ME *BAD!*

BUT *YOU'VE* GAINED *CONTROL* OVER THAT HORRIFIC, DISGUSTING CREATURE!

DUDE, I'M *STANDING RIGHT HERE!*

SPIDEY, DON'T MAKE US REGRET INVITING YOU.

I *TOLD* YOU HE WAS GONNA BE LIKE THIS.

DON'T EVEN SWEAT HIM, BRO.

SORRY, I WAS TRYING TO SAY I'M *IMPRESSED* WITH YOUR *PROGRESS!*

YOU USED TO ALWAYS BE TRYING TO *EAT* MY *BRAINS!*

NOT SINCE *YOU* GOT US HOOKED ON *CHEESEBURGERS!*

HERE-- HAVE ONE!

THANKS!

NICE BARBECUE, BROCK! I'M *SURPRISED* BY THE *TURNOUT!*

SPIDEY, CAN YOU TRY GIVING *ONE* COMPLIMENT THAT ISN'T BACKHANDED?

I MEAN I DIDN'T *REALIZE* HOW *MANY* SYMBIOTES THERE *ARE!*

WE HONESTLY CAN'T KEEP TRACK OURSELF.

SODA

SODA

WAIT... WHAT'S *HE* DOING HERE?

WELL... HE STARTED A DEATH CULT, AND--

CHURCH!

SORRY. CARNAGE STARTED A DEATH *CHURCH* DEDICATED TO EXTINGUISHING ALL LIFE.

IT'S ACTUALLY MELLOWED HIM OUT.

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS OUR LORD AND DESTROYER, KNULL?

UGH, CAN'T YOU JUST *EAT* MY *BRAINS?*

NOT ON *MY* WATCH! BURGERS FOR EVERYONE!

ZONE